

To: Schmit, Ayn[Schmit.Ayn@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Mon 3/28/2016 10:36:45 PM
Subject: RE: BuzzFeed News: press contact for hydraulic fracturing issues

I haven't heard....

-----Original Message-----

From: Schmit, Ayn
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 4:09 PM
To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa <Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: BuzzFeed News: press contact for hydraulic fracturing issues

Any reaction from HQs on the BuzzFeed article, now that it's after cob on the east coast?

-----Original Message-----

From: Smith, Paula
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 9:51 AM
To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Stavnes, Sandra; Hestmark, Martin; Schmit, Ayn
Cc: Jenkins, Laura Flynn
Subject: FW: BuzzFeed News: press contact for hydraulic fracturing issues

fyi

- Paula

-----Original Message-----

From: Perry, Dale
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:55 AM
To: Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>; Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: BuzzFeed News: press contact for hydraulic fracturing issues

FYI. We are handling from here but just wanted you to be aware.

Dale H. Perry, Ph.D.
Science Advisor to the Office of Public Affairs
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Mail Code 1701A Washington, D.C., 20460
Office: 202-564-7338
Cell: 202-380-6517

-----Original Message-----

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Perry, Dale <Perry.Dale@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: BuzzFeed News: press contact for hydraulic fracturing issues

Welcome back!

Take a look and let me know next step.

Julia P. Valentine
Office of Public Affairs

U.S. EPA
202.564.2663 direct
202.740.1336 m/txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Vergano [mailto:dan.vergano@buzzfeed.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 11:17 AM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: BuzzFeed News: press contact for hydraulic fracturing issues

Yes indeed, but it's manageable -- the study embargo breaks at 9 am Eastern on Tuesday. So any comment before COB Monday would be great -- sooner, better, natch if you have someone who has already critiqued the finding.

Dan

here 'tis
Dan Vergano | Science Reporter (DC) | 202 629 4563

BuzzFeed

1630 Connecticut Ave. 7th Floor, Washington DC 20009

On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 11:06 AM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi Dan,

>

> Yes, please send the study. You're on deadline today, I assume?

>

> Thanks

>

> Julia P. Valentine

> Sent from USEPA iPhone

>

>> On Mar 25, 2016, at 11:03 AM, Dan Vergano <dan.vergano@buzzfeed.com> wrote:

>>

>> To: EPA Press Office

>>

>> I'm a science reporter at BuzzFeed News. We are looking at a study
>> out Tuesday from Stanford that is critical of EPA's conclusions about
>> fracking and drinking water contamination in Wyoming (news release
>> below), and we wonder if anyone from the agency might comment.

>>

>> I can send the PDF if you might comment.

>>

>> Any help appreciated,

>>

>> Dan Vergano

>> BuzzFeed News

>> 202 629 4563

>>

>>

>> Dan Vergano | Science Reporter (DC) | 202 629 4563 BuzzFeed

>> 1630 Connecticut Ave. 7th Floor, Washington DC 20009
>>
>> EMBARGOED UNTIL 9 a.m. PDT March 29, 2016
>>
>> Headline: Stanford researchers show fracking's impact to drinking
>> water sources
>>
>> Summary: Common industry practices may have widespread impacts on
>> drinking water resources
>>
>>
>> BY ROB JORDAN
>>
>> Only one industry is allowed to inject toxic chemicals into
>> underground sources of drinking water – hydraulic fracturing or
>> “fracking.” Concerns about this practice have riled the U.S.
>> political landscape and communities around the country, perhaps
>> nowhere more so than in Pavillion, Wyoming, population 231.
>>
>> A new Stanford study published in Environmental Science & Technology
>> finds for the first time that fracking operations near Pavillion have
>> had clear impact to underground sources of drinking water. The
>> research paints a picture of unsafe practices ranging from the
>> dumping of drilling and production fluids containing diesel fuel and
>> high chemical concentrations in unlined pits to a lack of adequate
>> cement barriers to protect groundwater.
>>
>>
>> Fracking operators – the well field has gone through several
>> corporate hands since the 1960s –used acid and hydraulic fracturing
>> treatments at the same depths as water wells in the area.
>>
>> “This is a wake-up call,” said lead author Dominic DiGiulio, a
>> visiting scholar in Stanford's School of Earth, Energy &
>> Environmental Sciences. “It’s perfectly legal to inject stimulation
>> fluids into underground drinking water resources. This may be causing
>> widespread impacts on drinking water resources.”
>>
>> “Decades of activities at Pavillion put people at risk. These are not
>> best practices for most drillers,” said co-author Rob Jackson, the
>> Michelle and Kevin Douglas Provostial Professor at the School of
>> Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences. “There are no rules that
>> would stop a company from doing this anywhere else,” added Jackson, a
>> senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and
>> at the Precourt Institute for Energy.
>>
>> As part of the so-called frackwater they inject into the ground,
>> drilling companies use proprietary blends that can include
>> potentially dangerous chemicals such as benzene and xylene. When the
>> wastewater comes back up after use, it often includes those and a
>> range of potentially dangerous natural chemicals.
>>
>> The study, based on publically available records and documents
>> obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, is part of Jackson's
>> ongoing research on shallow fracking and its impact on groundwater.
>> He and his colleagues have done various studies across the United

>> States and in the Pavillion Field, an area of Wyoming's Wind River
>> Basin pocked by more than 180 oil and gas wells, some of them plugged
>> and abandoned.
>>
>> Back in 2008, the residents of Pavillion complained of a foul taste
>> and odor in their drinking water and questioned whether it was
>> related to physical ailments. In 2011, the EPA issued a preliminary
>> report putting the tiny town at the center of a growing fracking debate.
>>
>> The EPA report, which linked shallow fracking to toxic compounds in
>> aquifers, was met with heavy criticism from the drilling industry and
>> state oil and gas regulators. Three years later, having never
>> finalized its findings, EPA turned its investigation over to Wyoming.
>> The state released a series of reports without firm conclusions, and,
>> as of last month, has said there are no firm plans to take further
>> action. In the meantime, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
>> Registry has advised area residents to avoid bathing, cooking or
>> drinking with water from their taps.
>>
>> The new Stanford study goes a step beyond the 2011 EPA report to
>> document not only the occurrence of fracking chemicals in underground
>> sources of drinking water, but their impact on that water, making it
>> unsafe for use.
>>
>> The ripple effect goes well beyond Pavillion.
>>
>> "Geologic and groundwater conditions at Pavillion are not unique in
>> the Rocky Mountain region," said DiGiulio. "This suggests there may
>> be widespread impact to underground sources of drinking water as a
>> result of unconventional oil and gas extraction."
>>
>> To avoid what happened in Pavillion, Jackson and DiGiulio suggest
>> further investigation and regulations to limit shallow fracking and
>> require deeper protective casings. Wyoming does not require cementing
>> to surface casing, and only two U.S. states, Colorado and Texas, have
>> special requirements for shallow hydraulic fracturing. Safeguards
>> mean little, however, if they are not enforced – something the U.S.
>> Environmental Protection Agency has done a mixed job with, according
>> to Jackson. "The EPA has consistently walked away from investigations
>> where people and the environment appear to have been harmed" by
>> fracking's impact on groundwater, Jackson said.
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